

"Futurics" (futurology, mellontology, scenarioing, lateral thinking, etc.) is the action-oriented study of the future, in contrast to (1) lineal projections (arithmetic, geometric, logarithmic, analogic) and (2) "spacing" (scifi, tripping, future-shocking for entertainment). But it is further distinguished from #1 in being wholistic, not ducking the psychic individual/collective "unpredictables" and natural/historic "acts of God" (noncontinuous, radical shifts of circumstance). Since "planning" has a severely rational, curve-control feel, "futuric planning" would seem to be a phrase with internal contradiction; but I plead that the cancel is internal to our humanity and the human condition, so the phrase is accurate to the reality....This thinksheet suggests some impediments to doing this kind of planning, and some friendly forces. A worksheet.

A. LIMITING FACTORS: RESISTANCES TO FUTURIC PLANNING

1. Disbelief in "the future," from
 - a. Pessimism: "There is no future, at least for this institution."
 - b. Agnosticism: "We can't know enough about the future to use it now as a significant planning-factor."
 - c. Presentism: "Here and now we have enough to do, more than we can do, without borrowing trouble from the future."
 - d. Archaism: "What was good enough for Paul and Silas...."
2. Refusal to do new programming because
 - a. Insufficient vision to believe in the need for new planning.
 - b. Insufficient evaluation of present programs, so no adequate basis for critical comparison of what might be with what is.
 - c. Opinion that "we can't add" new programming because of insufficient money and/or personnel.
 - d. Concession that new programming is needed, but lack of courage to make room for it by dropping enough old programming.
 - f. Fear of further destabilizing of structures and of interpersonal relationships: "Let sleeping dogs lie" and "We've had enough disturbances around here lately" and "We need a breather, a plateau, before we jump into anything new and risky."
3. Zeitgeist and Kirchenggeist: unreadiness of society and church (laity and/or seminarians and/or clergy) for "this newfangled idea, even though it might be helpful if folks were ready for it."
4. Operational images:
 - a. "Servant," passive sense (wallflowering; stimulus-response; demand-supply).
 - b. "Budget" (the word used as a depressant, coolant, barbiturate).
 - c. "Seminary" (suggesting static, staid, conservative training for priests).
 - d. "Building"... "Clergy/Laity"....

B. ENABLING FACTORS: CLEARANCES FOR FUTURIC PLANNING

1. Vigorous biblical spirituality (singing/longing for the Kingdom of God).
2. Zeitgeist and Kirchenggeist: readiness of society and church (versus "Al").
3. Eager desire to share good news--in Joh. terms, "Life--Light--Love."
4. Compassion for the victims of "the human condition" (ignorance, etc.).
5. Intelligent intention to "get there on time, sometimes even ahead of time," instead of being mired in the past and/or dragged into the future.
6. Life together: common worship, corporate responsibility (covenant), interpersonal reinforcement, firm/flexible contracts, a common dream--in short, psychic stability-in-community, freeing for directing destabilizing experiences and opportunities.
7. Financial stability, so new monies don't get sucked into the past or drain.
8. Operational images:
 - a. "Servant," active sense ("Servant of the Lord," etc.).
 - b. "Pilgrim"... "Prophet"....
 - c. "Creation/Covenant, New Creation/Covenant," "Kingdom of God."
 - d. "Spirit."
 - e. "Midwife."